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FOUNDATION FOR PSYCHOCULTURAL RESEARCH

Hampshire College Culture, Brain & Development Program

An innovative academic program generating intellectual excitement around interdisciplinary study, and supporting research and teaching in the areas and intersections of culture, mind/brain, and human growth and development.

Established in 2003 by Professors Barbara Yngvesson and Neil Stillings with seed funds from the Foundation for Psychocultural Research, CBD is the only undergraduate program of its kind. CBD welcomes students from all Schools, and encourages scholars, no matter their primary discipline, to pursue their research through multidisciplinary, hands-on, independently driven inquiry. CBD's work is supported by the Foundation for Psychocultural Research, and other generous organizations; Hampshire College; alums and other individuals.

CBD STEERING COMMITTEE | DR. CYNTHIA GILL



I'VE BEEN A MEMBER of the CBD steering committee since I began at Hampshire, 11 years ago. I study the development of behavior through multiple levels of analysis, from single molecule to whole organism, particularly in relation to social and endocrine effects on brain organization and activation. Interactions with faculty and students through the CBD program have inspired me to develop ideas even further to understand the cultural and wider social context of behavior.

Sequenced behaviors that are triggered by social cues fascinate me and are part of the neuroscience and social-interaction research I pursue. Social-rank behavior and the influences of the stress response are also part of my work. The CBD program, through fantastic intellectual challenges, expands my ideas and questions. For example, I've become more interested in the social cues between

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Most amazing to me is the variety of interesting questions that are asked by students in applications for funding through the CBD program. The connections made and the thoughtful discussions seem boundless and exciting.

DR. CYNTHIA GILL, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY

Faculty Steering Committee & CBD Staff

Dr. Pamela K. Stone
Director

Amy Dryansky
Assistant Director

Dr. Jane Couperus
Dean of Cognitive Science,
Associate Professor of
Developmental Cognitive
Neuroscience

Dr. Cynthia Gill
Associate Professor
of Physiology

Dr. Lise Sanders
Associate Professor of
English Literature and
Cultural Studies

Dr. Laura Sizer
Associate Professor of
Philosophy


CONTACT

**FPR-HC Culture,
Brain & Development**

I = I Hampshire College

893 West Street
Amherst, MA 01002
413.559.5730
cbd@hampshire.edu

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 facebook.com/
HampshireCollege
CultureBrainDevelopment

To sign up for our email
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cbd@hampshire.edu

LETTER FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

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humans that signal social rank, but can be distorted by cultural influences.

For CBD, I've reviewed student grant proposals, assisted with invited speakers and performers, presented at the Art on the Brain conference in 2010, and also put together the Resilience: Exploring Biological and Culture Factors conference in 2011.

I'm proud to be part of a program that supports many student projects, and extends the ideas of faculty and students in unexpected and fruitful directions.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Give

In 2002 the Foundation for Psychocultural Research, founded by Hampshire alum, Dr. Rob Lemelson, in collaboration with Drs. Neil Stillings and Barbara Yngvessen, established the Hampshire College Culture Brain and Development program (CBD). For 13 years support from the FPR, and from Hampshire, has enabled CBD to build, nurture and sustain a vibrant and engaged community of students, staff, faculty and alums. CBD students maintain a strong and positive connection to the program, even after they graduate. Many also go on to attain advanced degrees, receive prestigious awards, and continue to engage in exemplary, innovative work.

In 2016 support from FPR ended; however, a generous alum has pledged half a million dollars toward the establishment of a CBD Student Research Grants endowment. Today we are working to raise the second half of this endowment. The realization of the CBD Student Research Grant endowment will ensure that the rigorous, creative, interdisciplinary student work at Hampshire continues to be supported through CBD. If you'd like more information about the Student Research Endowment Fund, or the CBD program at Hampshire, please contact our office at cbd@hampshire.edu, or 413.559.5730.

Save the Date

CBD students will present "What I Did Last Summer" at Family & Friends Weekend, Oct 20-22, 2017. Please join us; listen, talk to our students, say hello!

CBD turns
15 in 2018

Watch for news about our
15th anniversary celebration!



A Question of Happiness



We talk a lot about happiness at Hampshire, and in our culture as a whole. Some of us work hard at defining and finding it. Some spend a lot of time and money pursuing it. We wonder if we're happy, and how to make other people happy, too.

At CBD we've been thinking a lot about what makes our students "happy": what tools and experiences help them thrive, and how CBD can support their experience here at the College. Based on what students tell us, these are important pieces of the happiness puzzle:

Engagement | feeling invested and excited by your academic/creative work

Connection | feeling connected to and supported by the people around you

Balance | remembering to take time for fun, friends, play, and sleep!

Financial stability | trying to avoid constant stress about financing your education

So how do we create "happy" for our students? For CBD, it's a multipronged approach. Through our weekly Student Group, Living Learning Community, and Student Research Grants we offer opportunities for students to connect, engage, de-stress, and find support for their Divisional research.

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CBD Student Group has earned a reputation on campus as one of the best places to meet new people (and have a yummy dinner). The group is open to anyone, regardless of school affiliation. You can drop in any time, there's no sign-up or registration required. The discussion topic and presenter changes weekly, and is wide-ranging, so students can try out different interests, explore ideas, and maybe even bump up against a new approach to something they're working on.

Several guest presenters who are faculty at other schools have remarked on the special nature of the group — how engaged, enthusiastic and interesting the students are. Assistant Director, Amy Dryansky, organizes the group with a team of student leaders, several of whom are also grantees, and/or alums of our Living Learning Community.

The CBD Living Learning Community is a program we've found to be very effective at helping new students find their bearings. The CBD, Body, Brain & Culture LLC is one of several supported by Residence Life at Hampshire. Students come together around shared interests, live together on a floor in Dakin, meet with us as a group several times throughout the semester and engage in workshops and activities that bridge BBC topic areas.

The meetings serve several purposes; first, students participate in a variety of workshops run by faculty, staff, and special guests (often these are Hampshire alums). Workshops reflect the academic focus of the community, but are also meant as a way for students to get to know Hampshire and the surrounding community better — so they may go to a lab in Cole to dissect sheep brains with Dr. Gill, take a tour of the ERP lab and try out the equipment with Dr. Couperus, or take a field trip to a local museum.

Important as these workshops are, another equally crucial aspect of the LLC



Students in the Body, Brain & Culture LLC “take a stab” at sheep brain dissection in the lab at Cole.

I had a tutorial advisee who was having difficulty connecting with like-minded students when she first got to Hampshire. Then she discovered the CBD student group and was transformed. She got really involved with the group, and CBD funded an internship her very first year in Marco Iacaboni's lab. Iacaboni is a pioneer in research in mirror neurons, and one of the towering figures in the field. The internship got her completely turned on to research, her work with him became the focus of her final paper for my tutorial, and thanks to CBD, was life changing for her.

DR. JOANNA MORRIS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COGNITIVE SCIENCE

experience is community building. Each meeting begins or ends with an informal check-in; students get to talk about how they're doing, ask questions, and bring forth any issues that may impact them. One big benefit is that CBD Director, Dr. Pamela Stone, is not only a Hampshire faculty member, but also an alum, and able to share her knowledge and experience with the group.

Students consistently report positive feedback to us about the LLC. Some members become close friends, some not so close, but for most, the group is a comforting home base in what can be a very stressful first year. In the fall, we're entering our fourth year of running the LLC, and in the spring, our first class will graduate!

The **Student Research Grants** are another important piece of the CBD picture. Each fall and spring, CBD awards grants to students undertaking Divisional work at the intersections of culture, mind/brain, and human growth and development. Students from all five Schools and all Divisional levels are eligible to apply for support. Students can also apply for funding to attend professional conferences to present the results of their CBD-funded research.

SR grants play a vital role in helping Hampshire students as they embark on and refine their Divisional work. Many students come to us for research grants and internships as they begin to undertake Division II. Sometimes, the work they do convinces them they're on the right path to their Div II; sometimes it has the opposite effect — they discover they need to shift their focus or strategies. Either way, CBD grants provide students with the support they need to envision what might be possible for them, and relieve some of the financial stress that many students (and their families) feel. Many of our students build on that experience, and come back to us for additional funding, receiving two, or even three grants before they graduate.

So, what is this mysterious right combination of elements that equals happiness at Hampshire? We're not entirely sure, but we do know that for many students, CBD is an important piece of the happiness puzzle, and that makes us, well...happy!

Student Grants

During the 2016-17 academic year, CBD is pleased to have awarded more than \$30,000 in grants to students for research projects, internships and volunteer placements ranging from documentary film, photography, and visual art, to research into the causes and experience of pain and grief. We were also able to award three students additional funding through the new Sherman Fairchild Summer Stipend Program in the Sciences.

The Sherman Fairchild Foundation has awarded Hampshire College a multi-year grant to increase student interest in and access to the STEM fields. As Sherman Fairchild Fellows, participating students receive a \$3500 stipend, with a \$2200 housing and conference expense budget. Students from communities underrepresented in STEM fields are strongly encouraged to apply.

FALL 2016 GRANTEES

Hannah Davidson, Division II project

The Physiology of Grief: Understanding the Human Bereavement Response

Michelle Falcón, Division III project

Esclavitud, Dependencia, Liberación

Remy Furrer, Division III project

Coping with Success & Failure: Perceptions of Control

Scout LoPriore, Division III project

Describing a Wound: Art, Political History & Embodiment

Jacob Narotzky, Division II project

Mirror Neuron Growth after Birth

René Pedraza, Division II project

Cuban Women: Art as Mental Health, Social Development & Cultural Progress

Grusha Prasad, Division III project

The P600 of Singular “They”

Julia Rauch, Division III project

Effects of Injury-Induced Histamine Release

Natalie Strohm & Isa Witty, Division II project

Youth Empowerment through Safer Sexuality

Andrea Wong, Division III project

Perfectionism in Asia’s “Saving Face” Culture

(CBD also provided funding for Andrea to present her findings in a poster session at the 34th Annual Winter Roundtable in Cultural Psychology and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City)

Fanghou Zhu, Division III project

Cross-Cultural Experiment: Money as Gift, China & the US



Grantee Scout LoPriore at work, and two of the finished pieces from Scout's Division III exhibit.

SUMMER 2017 GRANTEES

Adelle Pitsas, Julia Kersten,* and Natalie Strohm, Division II internship

Infant Cognition Lab,
Hampshire College

Jiahui (Marshall) Cao, Division II project

Kyudo, Japanese Archery, Standing Meditation & Mind Development

Cindy Fang* and Tapu Debnath,* Division II internship

Center for Brains, Minds & Machines,
MIT, Cambridge, MA

Emily Gear, Division II internship

Stoopid Buddy Stoodios
Burbank, CA

Margaret Tyer, Division II internship

Hoover Lab, Colorado State University
Prion Research Center

Anya Uzo, Division II internship

Nuestras Raíces, Holyoke, MA

Alexa Wolf, Division II internship

Adalante Abroad, Madrid

* Sherman Fairchild Award recipient

Special Programs & Collaborations

CBD supported a number of programs and events this year by acting as a cosponsor, providing advice, financial assistance and other resources. We make it a priority to lend a hand to students, programs and faculty seeking to explore ideas, build collaborations and offer important learning opportunities to Hampshire and the Five College community.

Dr. Victoria Pitts-Taylor

*Feminism, Science & Corporeal Politics:
The Case of Affective Kinship*

Hamp Hack

Interdisciplinary 5-College Hackathon

Deafinitions:

A Deaf Studies Conference

Hampshire American Sign Language
(ASL) Collective

Ross Gay Poetry Reading

School of Interdisciplinary Arts

**Civil Liberties & Public Policy
Conference**

*From Abortion Rights to Social Justice:
Building the Movement for
Reproductive Freedom*

Leah Lakshmi residency

Ethics & the Common Good Program

Embodied Leadership Project

Jamila Jackson, Alumni Fellow

Michelle L'Esperance

*Anthropology of Reproduction:
Perspectives on Birthcare*

CBD COURSE DEVELOPMENT & AUGMENTATION

CBD supported the development/ augmentation of three courses at Hampshire that examine a question or issue related to the study of culture, mind/brain, or human development and incorporate perspectives from several disciplines.

Evolutionary Perspectives on Culture, Brain & Development (CS 285)

Instructors: Charles Ross & Neil Stillings

Temporal Interpretation of Narrative Discourse (CS 333)

Instructor: Daniel Altshuler

Black Aesthetics: Art, Race, Nation, and the Global (HACU 310)

Instructor: Monique Roelofs

The CBD course funds have allowed me to incorporate instruction from visitors around the world. It is a thrill for students to meet experts on topics that we study and to engage with them directly.

DR. DANIEL ALTSHULER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LINGUISTICS